



[Name of Document] ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[Abstract]

[Problems]

It is an object of the present invention is to provide an optical recording medium in which change in the optical characteristics thereof between before data are recorded therein and after data are recorded therein.

[Solutions]

An optical recording medium includes a substrate 11, a recording layer 14 formed over the substrate 11 and dielectric layers 13, 15 provided so as to be adjacent to the recording layer 14. When a recording mark M is formed at a predetermined region of the recording layer 14 by the irradiation with a laser beam L10, the materials contained in at least regions of the dielectric layers 13, 15 corresponding to the recording mark M are crystallized to form a crystallized region. Therefore, since the difference in the total optical properties of the optical recording medium 10 between before data are recorded in the optical recording medium 10 and after data are recorded therein can be increased due the change in the states of the dielectric layers 13, 15 in addition to the change in the state of the recording layer 14, the signal characteristics such as a C/N ratio and jitter of a reproduced signal can be improved. Thus, even in the case where it is particularly required to increase the difference in optical properties of the optical recording medium between before data are recorded in the optical recording medium and after data are recorded therein like a next-generation type optical recording medium, a reproduced signal having a good signal characteristic can be obtained.

[Selected Figure]

Figure 2